

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 16, and cancelled Claims 4 and 19-23. Claims 1-3 and 5-18 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 16 are independent claims.

Claims 13-15 and 20-22 were held withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, it is proposed herein that the instant claims be cancelled in order to expedite prosecution of the application. However, it should be noted that under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 121 Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-12, 16-19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as being anticipated by Orii. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 16 to more particularly define the subject matter in question. More specifically, the braking member (as seen in Figs. 5-7) has a flexible portion 513, and a contact portion 514. There is a step difference between the material contact portion 514 and the flexible portion 513. The step provides a leading edge to the braking contact portion 514, in the unidirectional braking rotational direction of the present embodiments. The leading edge provides a greater braking function relative to the flexible portion 513. The amendment to each of Claims 1 and 16 recites that the step is defined between the flexible portion and the contact portion. Thereby forming a leading

edge to the braking contact surface. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, independent Claims 1 and 16 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

Applicant will advance arguments hereinbelow to illustrate the manner in which the presently claimed invention is patentably distinguishable from the cited and applied prior art. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The applied prior art reference to Orii discloses a motor braking system having a braking device 8, including a flexible member (narrow portion extending from 8a), and contact members 8b and 8c. The surface of contact portions 8b and 8c are coextensive with the extended edge of the narrow portions extending from the hub 8a. Thus, the braking device of Orii does not provide a defined step between the narrow portion and the contact surface, providing a leading edge of the braking contact portion. Applicant respectfully submits that the braking device of Orii does not provide a substantial friction force characteristic provided by a defined leading edge braking contact surface, and as such Applicant respectfully submits that the applied prior art reference to Orii is not an anticipatory reference against independent Claims 1 and 16, as amended, and Claims 2, 3, and 5-15, and Claims 17 and 18, respectively dependent therefrom. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of this grounds of rejection.

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren S. Edmonds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Warren" being more prominent.

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